



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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A federal grand jury has indicted Milwaukee Alderman Jeff Pawlinski on charges of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to convert campaign contributions to personal use, United States Attorney Steven Biskupic announced March 11, 2003.

The indictment alleges that Pawlinski wrongfully obtained more than \$40,000 by depositing contributions directly to a personal account and by converting campaign contributions to cash through ATM transactions.

The charges further contend that on a July, 2002 campaign finance report, Pawlinski disclosed 44 campaign contributions, when he had actually received 92 contributions. Pawlinski also allegedly reported that he had a cash balance of \$35,000 in his campaign account, when the actual balance was negative 24 cents.

Under the charges, Pawlinski (d/o/b 6/3/66; of 3611 S. 14th St., Milwaukee) faces up to five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Biskupic and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mel Johnson.

“The charges allege that under a guise of seeking money for his reelection campaign for alderman, Mr. Pawlinski in fact was seeking money for his own use,” Biskupic said. “Mr. Pawlinski allegedly used a position of public trust for his own private gain.”

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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